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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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July 7, 2004

The Honorable Marybeth Peters Register of Copyrights Library of Congress Washington, DC 20559

Dear Register Peters:

On March 11, 2004, the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on Section 115 of Title 17 concerning mechanical and digital phonorecord delivery licenses. Several witnesses spoke of a need for significant statutory changes to Section 115; others preferred fewer changes. After the hearing, additional parties in the music licensing business also advocated reform. We believe that there is a role for the Copyright Office to bring interested parties together to address Section 115.

Since the Copyright Office has significant expertise in this matter, we are writing to ask that you host a series of informal discussions among the interested parties on modernizing Section 115. It is the desire of this Committee that the Copyright Office survey the issues of concern and identify areas of agreement. Where less than substantial agreement exists on a particular issue, the Committee requests the Copyright Office to identify in detail the various positions of each party. The Committee also requests that you draft model legislative language that reflects those areas of agreement among all interested parties.

The Committee requests that you update Committee staff on a regular, but informal, basis during your discussions with interested parties and to draft the materials requested above. We would hope that this effort could be concluded by September 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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Sincerely,

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